

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-36 are pending; Claims 1-3, 15, 16, and 18 are amended; Claims 27-36 are newly added and no claims are canceled herewith. As support for the present amendment may be found, for example, in the specification at pages 16-20, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that Claims 3-11 and 14 contain allowable subject matter. Newly added Claims 27-36 correspond to the allowed subject matter of Claims 3-11 and 14. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by Claims 27-36, and that Claims 27-36 are in condition for allowance.

With regard to the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 12, 15-17, 20, 21, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kanno (U.S. Pat. No. 6,263,118) in view of Maniwa (U.S. Pat. No. 5,764,866), this rejection is respectfully traversed.

In the past, image data stored in the image data storing means were managed on the basis of a single image file, including one or more pages. Therefore, it was not possible to read out only particular pages of a plurality of pages (e.g., page 1 of an image file A and page 2 of an image file B). In fact, to print a particular page of a single image file, it was customary for a user to read the entire image file including the particular page out of the image storage means, causing the operator to select the particular page, and to output the page selected. This type of procedure is very time consuming, and the problem becomes more serious when using a removable storing medium having a low reading rate or when an image file includes a number of pages.¹

¹ Specification, page 3, line 17 - page 4, line 7.

In light of these difficulties, the Applicants developed the present invention. To this end, Claim 1 recites in part that at least one of the first and second management information enables accessing of individual portions of the image data. Claim 15 recites analogous features. Through the claimed configuration, it is possible to selectively output a designated part of an image file.²

Kanno relates to an image processing apparatus. Kanno describes that the page memory control section 97 stores image data in the page memory 98 and reads image data from the page memory 98. Kanno describes the page memory 98 includes a region which is capable of storing image data for a plurality of pages, the page memory 98 being composed of a buffer memory region 98a, which is capable of storing image data for one page supplied from the scanner section 4 and an image combining region 98b which is capable of storing composite image data. The page memory control section 97 is provided with an image combination processing section 97a which is used when the combination mode is employed.³

However, Kanno does not disclose or suggest that at least one of a first and second management information enables accessing of individual portions of the image data. In fact, Kanno describes that all the scanned data is synthesized together into one unit. Thus, portions of the data of Kanno are not individually accessible, as recited in Claims 1 and 15.

As Maniwa is not relied upon for the features identified as deficient within Kanno, Maniwa is not substantively addressed herewith. It is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection of Claims 1, 2, 12, 15-17, 20, 21, and 26 be withdrawn.

Likewise, with regard to the rejection of Claims 13, 18, 19, and 22-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kanno and Maniwa in view of Murata (U.S. Pat. No. 6,606,161), that rejection is also traversed.

² Specification, page 23, lines 9-13.

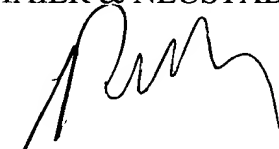
³ Kanno, col. 10, lines 35-45.

As noted above, Kanno fails to disclose or suggest the features recited in independent Claims 1 and 15, from which Claims 13, 18, 19, and 22-25 depend. As Maniwa and Murata are not relied upon for the features identified as deficient in Kanno, neither Maniwa nor Murata is substantively addressed herewith. It is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection of Claims 13, 18, 19, and 22-25 be withdrawn.

Consequently, in view of the foregoing discussion and present amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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